

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's **OTHER** Newspaper

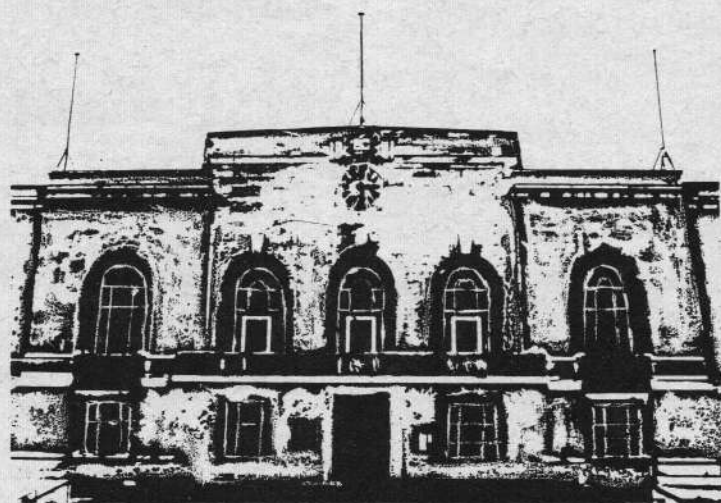
Consultation ignored

WHERE WILL THE AXE FALL?

There will be a 49 per cent rate rise implemented in April. Despite the alarmist predictions of "lone Tory Joe" and the Hackney Gazette, who had been predicting a rise of up to 70 per cent, the Labour group decided that they could impose the same rise as last year.

Although this figure is still massive rates in Hackney are still lower than many other boroughs in the rest of the country. Tory Environment Minister Michael Heseltine has threatened councils who impose large rate rises with financial penalties, and Hackney could still face these. Borough Treasurer J A Seabourne told the Council that Hackney was about sixth on the list of possible targets, which placed it in the "vulnerable zone".

However, it is unlikely that Hackney is seriously threatened in this way. If Heseltine wants to make an example of anyone, it will probably be Lambeth, which certainly led the campaign



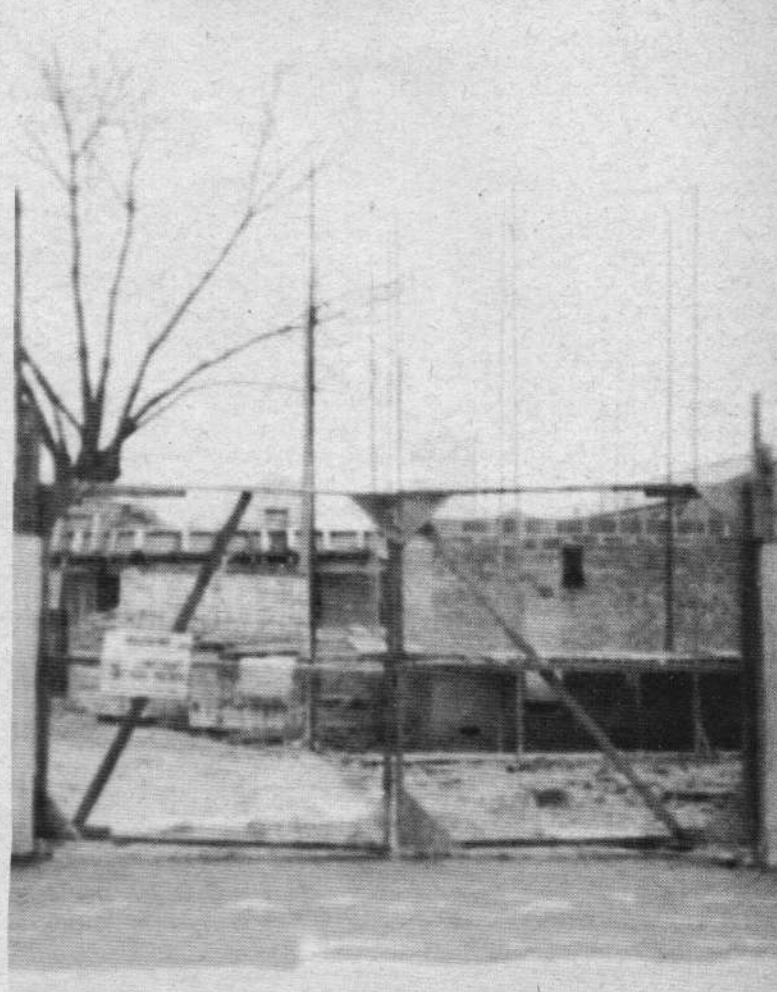
against the Tory cuts - but which has, ironically, also announced a rate rise much lower than first predicted.

The main criticisms that have been levelled at the Council leadership are the lack of public consultation and discussion over the levels of service that it would be possible to operate next financial year. Pleas from community groups and references to the committ-

ment to open government promised by the Labour Party in the last council elections have been ignored. This has led to various leaks and rumours getting out of the Town Hall about possible closures and changes. The row about three new nurseries being boarded up was one example and the invasion of a Council policy committee meeting by angry residents and children showed that the community wanted to be consulted about the kind of decisions that were being taken behind closed doors. However that is not the style of the leaders of Hackney Council. One left councillor told HPP that after three weeks "locked up in the Town Hall they were certainly in no mood to come out and be told that they had to consult the public first."

As we go to press, it is still not entirely clear where and when the cuts will be made. Inside we examine the two biggest spenders in the Council's budget, housing and social services, and predict how some of the services will be affected next year.

See page 4.



Locked out by union-bashers

One hundred and twenty building workers at the GLC site in Broadway Market have been laid off for their union activities. This is the reason behind the decision by the Leyton-based A E Symes Construction company to suspend work on the site, which will provide 298 homes for the GLC.

The workforce was told that the site was to be suspended for what the management calls "low productivity". Their statement went on to say: "Progress has been detrimentally affected by the involvement of part of the workforce in current action being taken in London against the GLC's decision to close its Direct Works Department."

The site's union convener, John Jones, told HPP that this was not so. The workforce had been on strike for one half day last autumn, to support the Wandsworth Direct Works Department in their fight against their Tory employers. Time had not been taken off to fight the GLC on this issue.

INVOLVED

A GLC source told HPP that there was a rumour that A E Symes did not want to get involved in any industrial dispute with the workforce and preferred to close the site down. If Symes do not start work again then the GLC might have to sue them for breach of contract.

There have already been countless delays on the controversial site. The first firm appointed by the GLC went bankrupt three years ago, and the site was left vacant for 18 months. Before work even started, there had been much criticism of the GLC for failing to develop the Broadway Market area at all, after they had let it become derelict.

The GLC's current policy is to sell all the new houses that it builds, although it says that no decision has yet been taken about Broadway Market.

A E Symes is part of the large Hitchin-based John Willmott Holdings, a company with at least three subsidiaries registered in the tax haven of Guernsey in the Channel Isles. The Broadway Market workforce are considering asking workers on other sites in the group to take industrial action in support of their fight for their jobs.

They are determined that they will not let their jobs disappear without a fight. They have already petitioned the GLC, but to no effect. Jobs are very scarce in the construction industry - Symes made their decision in the same week that Hackney Council announced that it was to make 190 people in its Direct Works Department redundant, and many other employers are making similar decisions.

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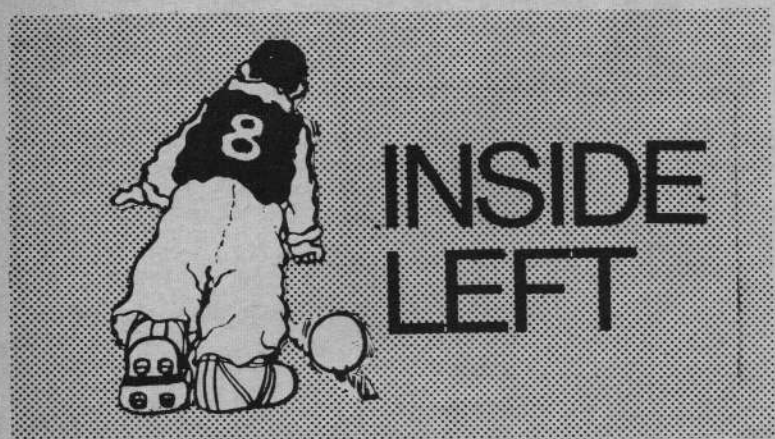
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Just recently, when I have been curled up in bed with my favourite book, British Political Facts 1900-1979, I have been thinking about Council leader Martin Ottolengui. Nothing sinister in that, Martin, but something you said that was quoted in the Hackney Gazette has been worrying me. (Of course, what you said could have been misquoted. The poor old 'Acney isn't terribly good at getting everything right. They have terrible trouble filling in the spaces between pictures of the mayor opening pubs and topping out bus garages and stories sent in by the local Conservative Association. However, let's assume that they were correct this time.) You said, "If Hackney People In Partnership think they can

carry out these responsibilities (fixing the rates and organising the cuts) better than we can, then it's up to them to stand for election... I have been around for a lot longer than they have."

WORRY

What has been causing me to worry, Martin, is that you know perfectly well that virtually nobody else has the slightest chance of getting elected in Hackney except Labour candidates. (I'm ignoring freak results like your friend "lone Tory Joe".) Once there was a Tory-run Council in Hackney. It was elected in 1968 at the height of unpopularity of the Wilson government. Probably no one was more surprised than

Reds in the bed

the Tories at winning power in boroughs like Hackney, and they certainly made a right balls-up of their period of office. Since then the Labour Party machine has got itself together again and I'd be willing to bet you a stiff brandy or three that it won't happen again. So it is highly likely that, let's say, 90 per cent of the candidates that Labour put up will get elected. Even in a bad year from now on, the Tories shouldn't manage more than a few seats. And nobody else - Liberals, Communists, Cats Protection League - really even has the chance of a look-in.

So the real fight is inside the Labour Party to see who can win the nominations for the nice warm seats that are so kindly provided. My second favourite bedtime reading these days is a list that I acquired over two years ago. It is the "Local Government Panel of Candidates for the London Borough of Hackney", compiled by the three Hackney Labour parties. These are the people who tried to get themselves adopted as candidates for the last set

of elections. What has surprised me is that there are just 91 names on the list. Only 91 people in Hackney (who had any real chance of getting on to the Council) wanted to be councillors! And when one leaves out the complete deadbeats who were dropped by various wards, and those other people who were obviously totally unsuitable (one person was only 20 when the list was compiled, which made him too young to stand) then there are really only about 60 people who could possibly be selected. If I were a more cynical person, I might say that there really aren't even 60 people who could possibly be chosen. But I'm not a cynic at all. (Quiet out there, fans! I'll sign autographs later!)

PROBLEMS

So you could say that if you want to get elected to Hackney Council you have to get yourself on to this list. That, unfortunately, means you have to join the Labour Party and this is where more problems occur. Because, I'm sorry to have to tell you, if

you want to join the Labour Party you've got to be a socialist. That's true, it says so on your membership card. The famous Clause 4 states that the aim of the Labour Party is to "secure for the workers by hand and by brain the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable division thereof that may be possible on the basis of common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange." So there's obviously some sort of test to stop any old person joining the Labour Party.

It's only just over two years till the next round of Council elections. Another one of these lists will soon be compiled. So I have some advice for those of you who want to grab some responsibility. Trot (no pun intended) round to your local Labour committee rooms, tell them you want to join up, and get on the list. But I warn you, they'll want to see your socialist credentials. So don't forget to wear something red - that should be enough to convince anyone!

Residential Workers 1

Dear HPP

Some of the readers of this paper may have read last month's article which dealt with the residential social workers' long, drawn-out dispute. Others may have ignored it and the 300-odd employees of Hackney Council, as being irrelevant to their lives.

One lesson I have learned is that I cannot trust my trade union, NALGO, to negotiate a wage increase for me. I cannot place any trust in faceless TU bureaucrats who have cut themselves off from the interests of their members.

NALGO is a large trade union with hundreds of thousands of members, but residential workers like myself represent only a tiny minority of that membership. Frequently you hear of paid trade union officials condemning industrial action by their membership. This sort of back stabbing occurred during our industrial action. Throughout, the NALGO leadership got up on their feathered cushions, which rest upon their high pedestals, and deplored our industrial action, through which we hoped to achieve a decent standard of living.

The modern monolithic trade unions, in my view, are necessary for the everyday functioning of the capitalist society, which exploits the lives of the bulk of the population.

If you ever happen to travel in the direction of St. Pancras station, you will come across NALGO headquarters. Don't expect to find a dilapidated, two-storey building. What you will see is a nice, clean, centrally-heated, well-lit

tower of glass and concrete. You will be forgiven for thinking that this building is an office block belonging to some large financial concern.

The centralised trade union bureaucracy, which operates from this building, does more to harm our trade union structure than to help it. In reality, it exists as a financial centre for the gathering up of our subscriptions to the union.

Who is to blame for this state of affairs, then? Well, I am to blame, you are to blame, and so are many others. Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves, we should get off our backsides and demand to have a say in the running of our trade union.

Trade unions can benefit and contribute to the organisation of the working classes. I feel however that modern trade union bureaucracy hinders the path to a socialist society in which we can all live in, with dignity and self respect.

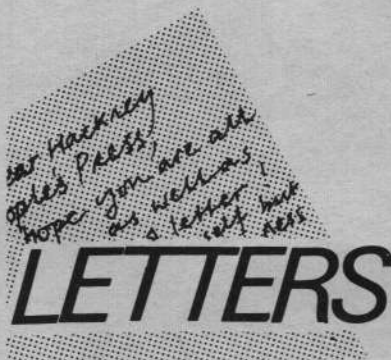
So, as I see it, the options are simple: you can join a trade union and organise it around its members and not some centralised bureaucracy; you can join a political party which has the interests of the workers at heart and through that party create an awareness among the population; yet again, you can bury your head in the sand and forget that any problems exist with your lifestyle or that of others.

A NALGO member.

Residential Workers 2

Dear HPP

With reference to the article about the residential workers' dispute with Hackney Council,



there are a few glaring points which have been misrepresented.

Throughout the dispute, the Council constantly stated that they do not employ residential social workers, but residential workers. So the article starts off with a statement which is completely untrue. The article continues to give the impression that there was only one union involved - "One of our aims was to achieve parity with the field social workers..." is only partially true. While that may have been the "aim" of one of the unions involved, that of the author (NALGO), it was certainly not true of both unions. The claim was based partly on parity with field social workers. The aim of the negotiators was to achieve the best possible settlement for the residential workers.

The author says, "We eventually settled in November with possibly only a quarter of what we had originally asked for and only a back-dating from October."

In fact basic grade workers are paid on Grade 3 (£4,080-£4,776); the claim was for Grade 5 (£5,067-£5,910). A quarter of what we asked for?

If the author's union had been less dogmatic and its members informed of how much money they were losing by not accepting the offer sooner, the backdating may have been from an earlier

time than October.

However, having said that, the Council's attitude was as described and it will be a long time before residential workers receive the pay to which they are entitled.

A NUPE member.

West Ham Picket

Dear HPP

Readers might think it's unusual to be asked to inform on their friends and neighbours. They probably have never experienced the police regularly barging into their houses at all hours of the day and night, breaking down doors and conducting searches without even producing documents entitling them to do so. They certainly wouldn't believe that you can be arrested for not turning your lodger over to the police because he might be an "illegal immigrant".

But none of this is at all unusual in Newham or in many other places in Britain today. All these things have happened to Mr X of Stratford. Immigration laws are something particularly real and unpleasant to many black people. In West Ham, for example, the local police make a habit of putting pressure on immigrant landlords. If you don't keep up a friendly relationship with your local bobby and slip him a few names now and then, he might find that your own papers are just not quite right or have you for harbouring a criminal.

East London Workers Against Racism is organising a picket of West Ham Police Station on 22 March. We're marching there from Maryland British Rail Station starting at 1pm. We're holding this march particularly to take up the defence of Mr X and because we understand what immigration laws mean for black people: constant pol-

ice harassment and intimidation, and encouragement to racist thugs.

If you're concerned with fighting racism in practice and agree with our basis for doing so - opposition to all controls on immigration - come on our march and picket West Ham Police Station with us. They can't be allowed to get away with this sort of thing any longer. We're holding street meetings at Stratford market on the first three Saturday mornings in March. ELWAR can be contacted at Box 22, 136 Kingsland High St, E8 or on 274 3951.

Yours sincerely
R Osborne (for ELWAR).

Pollution

Dear HPP

The people of Hackney and England pay a high social cost in terms of disease etc. Why not make the petrol combines pay? They make enough.

Vehicle exhausts are poisoning the air with sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide and cancer-causing hydrocarbons. With petrol you have the addition of lead. Does it mean one hour, one day, one year or ten years off your life?

Hackney is a confined area so the high build up of fumes means children are especially vulnerable, young children more so.

The Needleman study (March 1979) found that children with high lead levels in their bodies performed less well than others.

The Billick study (April 1979) found the blood-lead levels of 178,533 children had a "highly significant" association between them and the amount of lead present in petrol sales.

Yours chokeingly (hope I'm still around to read it)

A tenant.

EP THOMPSON AND THE STATE

Sometimes a new movement in British politics can begin without any particular planning. There would seem to be grounds for cautious optimism that this might be happening now, with a distinct growth in what can loosely be called libertarian politics. The most positive evidence for this has been shown by the success of the book, *Beyond The Fragments*, which is about the women's movement and how socialists must learn from it. The authors, Sheila Rowbotham, Hilary Wainwright and Lynne Segal, have been overwhelmed with invitations to speak from all over the country. Indeed, at one meeting last month in Hackney, more than 120 people crammed into the basement at Centerprise to hear Sheila discuss the book with Sarah Benton, the editor of the Communist fortnightly paper, *Comment*.

LONELY VOICE

One of the most influential figures in this growth is undoubtedly the historian E P Thompson, best known as the author of *The Making Of The English Working Class*. Thompson split with the Communist Party over Hungary in 1956, and has since, as a somewhat lonely voice, argued his libertarian cause inside the Labour party. He seemed to have been rather out of the public eye for the last few years until he became involved with the defence in

the ABC Official Secrets trial which took place in the autumn of 1978. He wrote a couple of brilliant articles for *New Society* and *New Statesman*, which certainly made an immense difference to the people around the defence campaign. Since then he has written more and more about the dangers we are facing from the increasing power of a strong central state.

BLAIR PEACH

E P Thompson spoke recently at a meeting in the Trades Hall arranged by the Hackney WEA and the Friends Of Blair Peach Committee, where he outlined the anti-democratic tendencies that increasing state intervention in our lives means. These included bureaucracy, corruption in public life, the manufacture by the state of public opinion and the increasing evidence that state operatives are working beyond control. He argued that it was not an accidental incident that Blair Peach was killed last April. It was a logical progression from the way in which state intervention was increased. The ABC trial had been a crucial period in this intervention, as had been proved since by the attempts to manipulate the media at the time. Newspaper editors and BBC chiefs had been summoned to Downing Street to be told that the defendants had IRA and Baader-Meinhoff connections.



The Friends of Blair Peach Committee organised a picket of Stoke Newington Police Station early in February to protest at the presence in the borough of the elite police Special Patrol Group. Hackney teacher Blair Peach was killed in a SPG attack during an anti-NF protest in Southall last year.

The SPG presence was criticised by a wide range of organisations in Hackney, starting with the Council and the Hackney CRE. Council

leader Martin Ottolangui told councillors that he had requested an urgent meeting of the Police Liaison Group only to be told that the SPG had moved on.

Various reports of the Group's activities in the borough have reached HPP. These range from harassing travelling people on a caravan site in Homerton, turning up at a private disco organised by Leaview House TA and rummaging through dustbins in Stamford Hill.

He felt that the situation was now very unstable. An authoritarian state could now be imposed very quickly, probably around some dramatic event or other. But there were signs that all was not yet lost. The jury on the anarchist trial, for instance, which told the judge that he was wrong in trying to browbeat them into submission, showed that there was an area in the centre of society which was libertarian and willing to fight.

He also spoke forcefully of the likely increase in the cold war. The use by NATO of Britain as a base for cruise missiles was an alarming development.

ALI ABOUT HOUSING

In response to the new housing Bill and the cutbacks in local authority housing, the Hackney Workers' Educational Association, in conjunction with the Hackney Tenants' Association, has organised

a series of meetings through March and April.

The meetings will be opened by invited speakers in the fields of local authority housing and tenants rights. It is hoped that this course will go beyond the formal structures of housing administration and local government to examine the underlying power structures and interests at work.

The series begins with a meeting on Housing Finance And Control, introduced by Stuart Weir. Although there are five other meetings organised, it is envisaged that the general direction of the series will be decided by the participants.

WHAT THE EYE DOESN'T SEE

Recently there have been some changes in Britain's foreign policy towards Latin America, which represent an important departure from previous policies. On 29 October last year, the Home Secretary announced the closure of the visa programme for Latin American political refugees which was opened in 1973 after the reactionary coup d'etat which overthrew the Popular Unity Government in Chile. This was closely followed by the re-establishment of the diplomatic relations with Chile and Argentina. Recently, the Guardian newspaper reported that the Foreign Office seemed to have accepted the Chilean Junta's claim that the Britain citizen Dr Sheila Cassidy had only been "maltreated" and not tortured.

closed doors

It was after Dr Cassidy's arrest in 1974 that Britain broke diplomatic relations with Chile, and nobody at the time questioned the fact. Here in Britain, the Home Office has cut funds for

the Joint Working Group for Refugees from Latin America, which is the organisation responsible for the reception and resettlement of Latin American refugees in this country, and it will have to cease work by the beginning of next year. Not only has the Tory government closed the doors to political prisoners in Latin America, but it is even refusing political asylum to refugees who have managed to make their own way to Britain, of whom there is one living in Hackney, who is now facing the threat of possible deportation.

no change

These changes in foreign policy would seem to imply either that repression in Latin America in the past has been grossly exaggerated or that the human rights situation is now improving. Unfortunately, neither of these assumptions is correct. Year after year, a series of international organisations have reported

on the continuing systematic violation of human rights in the large majority of Latin American countries. In its 1979 report, Amnesty International declared that "disappearances, extra-judicial executions and arbitrary arrests are a common feature throughout much of the region".

In the particular case of Chile, many people have been led to believe that there has been a substantial improvement because the Junta has changed its methods of repression. Having succeeded in repressing open forms of trade union and political organisation, it is now attempting to prevent them from reappearing and regaining their former strength and effectiveness. In order to do this, their methods vary from legalised repression to the use of death squads, which they pretend have no connection with them. This led the United Nations to state in its 1979 report that certain aspects of the Human Rights situation in Chile had become even worse.



massacres

Recent events have shown that there is no reason whatsoever to be optimistic about other regimes on the Latin American continent; in El Salvador, 200 people were massacred during a demonstration; 39 people died in Guatemala (nine of them were Spanish diplomatic officials when the army forced its way into the Spanish Embassy. (In this country alone, 3,200 were killed by the right-wing death squads in 1979, according to the Jesuit organisation of Central America.) In Uruguay there is a secret plan to exterminate 150 political prisoners by making it appear that they have been killed by common criminals

within the prison.

Faced with this reality the Latin American refugees living in England have formed local organisations to join forces with trade unions, students and community organisations to reinforce the already existing solidarity links between Britain and the Latin American peoples. We are particularly aware of the role that the solidarity of the British Labour movement has played in saving many Latin American lives.

A local committee of Latin American refugees has already been organised in Hackney; if you want to have more information about our activities, please contact us at East London Committee of Latin American Refugees, c/o Latin American Centre, Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old St., EC1.

Tory policies cutback services and... RATES UP BY 49%

The Council's decision to impose "only" a 49% rate rise will have a severe effect on the levels of services in the borough. Below we look at the effect on the two departments which spend most of the cash - Housing and Social Services.

Housing

The main effect of the decision will not really be felt this year in the housing department. This is because housing is funded in two ways. First, there is money raised by rents and rates, Revenue. Second, there is the amount of money that the Council is allowed to borrow by the government, Capital. The decision has been taken that many of the items of expenditure which should normally have been funded by Revenue, will in fact be funded from Capital. So maintenance, repairs and some staff positions will in fact be paid for out of different funds from previous years.

The effect of this is that there will be very little money to spend on new projects. So all the schemes that Hackney has, for doing up old estates and for new developments and rehabilitation, will slow right down. The plan to restore Stonebridge Estate, for instance, which is a pre-war estate in the most terrible condition, will now take even longer to put into operation. Several other estates, like Morley House in Stamford Hill, which is now squatted, will take even longer to get refurbished.

Some things have been saved, however. The scheme to reintroduce resident caretakers, a manifesto pledge so far unkept, will still be going ahead, if a pilot scheme proves successful.

The other main way of saving money will be in freezing staff vacancy rates. At the moment, about 10 per cent of jobs are unfilled at any one time. This obviously saves quite a bit of money each year. The proposal is to let this increase by a further one per cent at least, just by taking longer to fill each job as it comes up. This will have an effect on levels of service especially in repairs and maintenance, where waiting lists are very long already.

Social Services

In Social Services, the exact cuts are to be decided by a meeting of the Council's committee after we go to press. However, we have received a copy of an early draft estimate of the levels of funding which indicate the cuts that will be made.

After a 5 per cent cut, the money allocated for 1980/81 is £17.6M. The draft estimate of the sum required to carry out the Council's programme (other than for new establishments due to open in 1980/81) is £19.6M. The sum required for what are known as "special items" (proposed new growth and major improvements and renewals) is £330,530. This makes a total of £20M. The difference between the

reduce the working week to less than 40 hours.

4. £10,000 to be saved from the salaries of those on secondment for training.



total and the allocation is £2.3M. This isn't the sum to be cut though, because right at the end of her report, the Director claims that the allocation "if calculated today, would be increased by £979,000". This isn't explained.

£1m+ Cuts now - more later?

The cuts that she outlines come to just over £1M. This still leaves a gap between the allocation and the proposed expenditure. She concludes by saying: "Any further steps taken to reduce the Committee's estimates would result unequivocally in the reduction or withdrawal of some existing services, and it is difficult to see how they could be achieved without considering staff redundancies".

Here follows an outline of what the cuts might be.

1. Economy measures: saving on fuel, etc, would save £58,000. The rest "would have an inevitable effect on services".

2. £240,000 to be saved by reducing the number of placements in private and voluntary establishments (ie homes for children, elderly, and mentally disordered).

3. £109,000 to be saved on salaries and wages. This is to be done by freezing vacancy levels. (At present this stands at 25 per cent in the Residential and Day Care Division.) The Director accepts that at the moment the Department is "not over-staffed and in fact experiences difficulty in coping with the workload". She suggests that an extra one per cent vacancy level saves £89,000 for the Department. It is believed that the Directorate is reluctant to

5. £8,000 to be saved by withdrawing the cars attached to area offices.

6. £400,000 to be saved by not opening the new home in Malpas Road (Spurside Rd) and three day nurseries.

This decision has already been reversed, although the Hoxton Community Nursery will now not open.

7. £64,700 to be saved on not improving or providing equipment for certain establishments.

8. £131,000 to be saved by postponing growth items. (We have heard, though, that the adoption and fostering unit is to expand as proposed and not to be cut back.)

9. Increases in charges for services: meals on wheels at clubs from 14p to 25p; day nurseries fees 30p to £1.80 instead of 20p to £1.20; charges for

holiday hotels for the elderly to be almost doubled; charges for holiday hotels for the handicapped to be £10 per week minimum. HPP also knows that the Council is proposing at some time to close all its homes not actually in the borough. These at the moment are at South Ockenden, Brentwood and Woodford. But it is impossible to know at this point whether they have any plans for the immediate future. For closure read rationalisation.

There now seems a grudging acceptance that the Council leadership has done very well at making the best of a very bad deal. "I have got a lot of respect for what Martin Ottolangui has done," one left councillor who has been arguing for a no-rates increase, no-cuts platform.

Criticism

But there is criticism still from those on the left that the public has not been informed of what they are planning to do, and have not been consulted for their opinions on some of the options that could have been taken. Such openness is not to be expected from a Council like Hackney, though.

Hackney People In Partnership echoed this view when they complained that these "important decisions are not just a matter of immediate fixing of the rates and next year's budget. We feel that the borough's stated policy of public consultation is the only way in which the severe problems can be tackled".

The Labour manifesto for the 1978 elections also pledged itself to this open principle: "Making information on which a council bases its policies more open to the public and increasing public consultation is an essential part of socialism." The people should demand that this pledge is kept.

HESELTINE'S HAMMER

Local government is taking the brunt of the Tories strategy to cut public expenditure. Hackney has suffered particularly badly from this process, but it is pretty well the same story everywhere.

If the government cuts back substantially on the funding it gives to councils (up to 60% of a council's budget) then there is nothing that a council can do about it except raise rates or cut services.

Last November, Heseltine announced the Rate Support Grant (RSG) for the coming year, 1980/1. This was a disaster for Inner London.

Of the 12 Inner London Boroughs no less than seven lost the maximum amount permitted, a 3p rate, which in Hackney is £1M. Only Brent, Haringey and Newham lost more and no boroughs outside London lost more than a 1p rate. Thus Hackney had to put the rates up by 3p to start with, even before taking account of inflation. Worse still, the RSG that has been paid has been calculated on the assumption that inflation will be just 13%. If it exceeds that level then the money has to be raised from the rates. Therefore the real cut is a good deal more than the government's figure of £1M.

So what could Hackney have done? It would not be sensible to budget for no growth, because there is growth in the pipeline.

There are only two other strategies, both of which have not been tried this year. One would be to go bankrupt, which would be what would follow from a stance of "no cuts, no rate increases". This would end in direct rule from Whitehall. Mass resignation of councillors would be followed by elections for a new mandate. But to do what? A new council would face the same dilemma. These solutions could only work if there was concerted action in various boroughs across the country. Just imagine the government's problems if the whole of Inner London went bankrupt - after all even in America central government stepped in to save New York.

Fighting back-too late?

Opposition to the cuts in expenditure in the borough has emerged mainly from the 'Fightback' campaign. This has received support from various organisations such as Hackney Health campaign, People in Partnership, Federation of Hackney Tenants, the Hackney Under 5s and - on the more political side - Hackney North Labour Party, Hackney Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party. Fightback was initiated by Hackney Trades Council, the body which in turn represents local unionists.

Fightback is essentially fighting a losing battle, yet there is a clear need to convey to people the effect of the disastrous Tory policies on local services, and Hackney's Labour Council's capitulation, despite the fact it supposedly supports improved services. The

cuts have been foisted on to an unsuspecting public without proper consultation.

The aims of Fightback are two-fold. First, they are aiming at Central Government, who are hitting out viciously at those in greatest need. If local councils do not fall into line then Heseltine's Department of Environment will administer cuts in the rates support grant. This comes from a government which pledged more autonomy for local government in its election manifesto!

Secondly, Fightback is seeking to change the council into a campaigning opposition to the cuts. They regard themselves as carrying out the work the council should be doing, for example in printing leaflets to inform the public of the situation and a broadsheet to appear in the middle of March. They will be supporting the massive TUC anti-cuts demonstration on March 9th,

and feel the council should support the protest.

However, despite a letter from the Trades Council requesting them to do so, it appears the Policy Committee did not consider the matter. Neither did they take up the suggestion of publishing a special issue of the 'Hackney Herald' to inform the public of the impending cuts and how they could be resisted.

Fightback is hoping to petition the council meeting on March 26th, the meeting at which the council is likely to 'rubber-stamp' the cuts and raise rates by 49%. There will be a rally outside the Town Hall at 6.30 pm.

Dermot McNeil, secretary of the Trades Council, believes the council must put up a political fight against the Tories rather than "simply acquiescing" as at present. The Labour Council was not elected to administer a reduced level of services in the borough.

Most criticism of the Housing Bill, currently being debated in a House of Commons Committee, has been given to its effect on council housing. Any council tenant of more than three years' standing will now have the right to buy their house or flat (with substantial financial incentives), thus attacking the basis of local authority letting and incidentally, involving the councils in a financial loss. But the Bill also makes substantial changes in the private rented sector, dramatically altering the position of the several million people who compete in the shrinking market of flats and bedsits. Put simply, it will mean less security and higher rents.

The Tories want to shift the balance of power away from tenants to their landlords, arguing that rent control and increased security have "forced owners to sell and not to let, or to allow properties to decay".

But the facts do not support this contention. After the last major Tory Rent Act, in 1957, which gave landlords the power to evict without reason, the amount of rented property actually declined at a faster rate. By contrast, the 1974 Rent Act, which increased private tenants' rights, led to a slower rate of decline.

"SHORTHOLD" CLAUSE

Even so, the Housing Bill will change the position of private tenants in a number of ways. To start with, its main idea is for a new type of housing tenure known as "shorthold". A shorthold tenancy, through negotiation between landlord and tenant, allows an agreement to be drawn up for between one and five years, apparently therefore giving some length of security. But the sting is in its tail: when the period

INSECURITY OF TENURE

ends, the landlord can evict without giving any reason at all.

A shorthold tenancy could be introduced whenever a flat falls empty, and if the person is unwary, could apply to any existing tenant who signs on the dotted line. Even if the landlord decides not to evict when the shorthold expires, he or she still has the power to do so at a later date, leaving the tenant in a nail-biting limbo.

There are also further drawbacks to the new shorthold tenancy. At present, many tenants have their rents agreed and registered with a Rent Officer, and can only be thrown out for certain reasons, such as rent arrears. Shorthold not only makes eviction easier but encourages landlords to charge higher rents.

Though rents on shortholds are supposed to be registered with the Rent Officer, this doesn't have to happen before the tenancy starts. So, if there's an argument over the amount of rent, and the Rent Officer eventually reduces it, there is no refund of the overpaid sum, as is normal under presently protected tenancies. Most extraordinary of all, the government can decide to issue a "statutory instrument (a sneaky way of bypassing normal parliamentary procedure), which excludes shortholds in any given geographical area entirely from the registered rent provisions. For example, the borough of Hackney could be excluded.

In effect, tenants who take on a shorthold agreement could find themselves paying

an extortionate rent whilst the Rent Officer argues it out and, just when they'd reached a settlement, be thrown out on their ears because their year's "contract" is up. Though the Bill envisages shortholds of up to five years, there seems little incentive for landlords to go for more than the minimum 12 months.

All this may sound only too familiar to tenants who already pay through the nose, have no security anyway because they come under one of the existing Rent Act loop-

where the landlord lives on the premises. Instead of going to a Rent Tribunal, these landlords can now go (with any new tenancy) straight to a county court for a possession order. Not only are the courts likely to be less sympathetic, but their right of reprieve on possession orders will be reduced to a maximum three months. The most likely occasion for such action is, on current practice, when the tenant applies for a rent reduction.

DEPOSITS

Deposits on new lettings are likely to increase. The Bill sets a new upper limit on deposits (against damages etc) of two months' rent in advance. Since it's written down, landlords are likely to go for this figure, meaning £200 on a £25-a-week flat.

RENTS

Rents will go up faster. Landlords can apply after two years for a new (increased) registered rent, instead of the present three. At the same time, if there is no tenant in occupation after the two years, the registered rent can be struck off, and they simply start again at a higher figure. All existing registered tenants will also be subject to



holes (such as a holiday let) or have never dared test their existing rights. But the Housing Bill doesn't stop there. Among its other provisions affecting private tenants are the following:

EVICCTIONS

Evictions will be faster and easier for landlords of "restricted lettings" - those not fully covered by the present Rent Act, for instance

the same deal as new shorthold tenants, in that any new agreed rent only takes effect from the time the Rent Officer reached a decision. No refunds.

Some landlords will legally avoid the Rent Acts completely. The Bill allows certain organisations, "authorised by the Minister", to build new housing for rent completely outside Rent Act provisions. These would be called "assured tenancies".

"Controlled" tenancies will disappear. This affects the 200-300,000 people in England and Wales whose rents at present can't increase unless their landlords provide basic amenities, such as a bath or toilet. They could now be simply converted into "regulated tenancies" - with higher rents.

All in all, the Bill is a victory for the Tory view that Landlords are hard done by and persistently harassed by their overprotected tenants. Meanwhile, private tenants themselves are badly in need of a lobby for their interests. One of their few London organisations, the Paddington Federation of Tenants and Residents' Associations, says the Bill is "weighted entirely in favour of the landlord" and does nothing about existing loopholes, such as holiday lets and licences. "The introduction of shorthold leases will mean more homelessness," the Federation concludes.

And if you are made homeless, there is no guarantee that the local council will have any responsibility for your plight. As MP Bruce Douglas-Mann has put it: "This Bill will lead to more evictions and more rooms to let at £40 per week."

ADVERTISEMENT

Trailing Behind



The rapid increase in the popularity of bicycles as a practical alternative to the motor car demands a new look at the potential of the bicycle for carrying freight or passengers.

The most practical method for most people is likely to be a trailer which can easily be hitched up to any bicycle and can potentially carry loads of up to 2-3 cwt with relative ease.

"Inventive Structures" is currently experimenting with various designs and is producing a lightweight shopping trailer (see illustration) which easily unhitches to be wheeled around the market or supermarket. This model, complete with a large canvas bag, is available for about £30.

Now you can buy a week's

shopping at a time without the hassle of struggling to get on to buses!

With assistance from Hackney Co-operative Developments, Inventive Structures is planning to expand to form a workers' cooperative, producing existing designs and developing new ones.

If you have good practical skills, are interested in producing tools for a convivial society and are interested in exploring the problems of production on a small scale, on a cooperative basis, then contact: Richard Lanham, Inventive Structures, 7 Parkholme Rd., E8, tel 249 9938.

If you are interested in buying a trailer or would like to look at one, phone the above number or call round any Saturday from 10am-1pm.

IMMIGRANT LAW

Hackney Legal Action Group is organising a course on Immigration Law. The course starts on Saturday 12 April with an Introductory Course. The speakers will be Anne Dummett and Ian Martin from the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

The main course will follow over the next 10 weeks on Tuesday evenings between 6 and 7.30 pm, from 15 April to 17 June and is aimed at those who have an interest in practising in the field of immigration law.

The first lecture, to be given by Ian McDonald, will deal with the framework of immigration law, in particular the categories of admission and patriality. Subsequent lectures will be on Control before Entry, Control on Entry, Control after Entry, Appeals, Removal and Deportation.

The fee for the opening session is £1. The fee for the full course is £25 for firms or institutions and £15 for individuals.

Course details and administration forms can be obtained from Louise London or William Ackroyd at Hackney Law Centre, 986 8446 or Ida Gudema at Clinton Davis and Co., 986 9321.

Join the Party which....

- ☒ STRUGGLES FOR A SOCIALIST BRITAIN
- ☒ FIGHTS RACIALISM IN ALL ITS FORMS
- ☒ CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE TORY CUTS
- ☒ WORKS FOR UNITY OF THE LEFT
- ☒ IS ROOTED IN THE WORKING CLASS
- ☒ ARGUES FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS
- ☒ CAMPAIGNS FOR WOMENS' LIBERATION
- ☒ IS A MARXIST PARTY OF THE PEOPLE
- ☒ PRODUCES A DAILY PAPER OF THE LEFT
- ☒ FIGHTS FOR REAL DEMOCRACY

.....and much more besides. The Communist Party in Hackney has 350 members, involved in many campaigns, movements and unions. The Communist Party in Britain has 20,000 members active in all the people's movements. We need more members to campaign more effectively, to learn from, to help us strengthen and unite the working class, the left, the community organisations and all who care for democracy, for people's rights, for socialism. The attacks of this Tory government, and the right-wing performance of the last labour government shows that we need a strong Communist Party to win socialism in Britain. Now is the time to join.

Join the Communist Party. Write, phone or send this form to: David Green, Secretary Hackney Communist Party, 126 Amhurst Road, E. 8. tel. 249-6374.

I wish to join/know more about the Communist Party.

Name.....

Address.....

.....(tel. no. if any).....

WOMEN FIGHT IMPERIALISM



This year's International Women's Day March on the 8th of March is based on the theme, "Women Against Imperialism". The United Troops Out Movement will be sponsoring this event, and its East London branch recently organised a march through Hackney to protest against conditions in which women prisoners are held in Armagh Jail in Northern Ireland.

On Thursday, 7 February, prisoners in Armagh Women's Jail heard screaming, banging, shouting and crying throughout the night. It was coming from the third floor of B wing, where 32 women are protesting for the restoration of political status. Forty male warders had been brought in from Long Kesh prison to move the women on to a lower floor. All 32 women were severely beaten up and mistreated. Three were hospitalised and one was thought to have been

raped. Since then, two male warders have been stationed outside each cell and reports of at least one more physical attack have come out. Warders are refusing to supply slop-out buckets, and prisoners are having to relieve themselves in their cells. Sanitary towels are not being provided.

In Long Kesh, H Block's 400 men are in protest for the restoration of political status withdrawn in 1976. Their conditions are even worse. They have nothing to wear but blankets. Their cell walls are smeared with shit. They are regularly beaten and, like the women prisoners, they have virtually no contact with the outside world - no books, newspapers, writing materials, letters, etc. Once a month they are allowed a visit, but only if they agree to a degrading anal search beforehand.

There are also 66 Irish political prisoners in Brit-

ish jails. Most are in solitary confinement and because they are distributed throughout the country in high-security jails, relatively little is heard of them. All these prisoners are refused letters, writing materials, books and papers. They are subjected to regular beatings and the "liquid cosh" anti-depressant drugs. Some women released from Armagh were addicted to Valium. Their conditions are similar to those of media "horror" stories about foreign jails. It is significant that, as in other repressed areas, Amnesty International has been refused access to Armagh and Long Kesh prison camps.

The Women's Day march leaves from Clapham Common at 1.30pm on March 8. It is supported by groups representing African, Irish, South American as well as British women. Irish women have also taken up this theme and will be picketing Armagh jail on the 8th.

In response to a request from the prisoners, a group of women from Hackney and Tower Hamlets have arranged to get a bus to go to Armagh that weekend. It will be part of a contingent of over 200 British women going there. Please support this action, and if you want to go, or help in any way please ring Maeve on 272 9445 during the day.

East London UTOM are organising a Day School on Ireland on 17 May in Stoke Newington. For information contact Box 13, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Centerprise are putting on the Half Moon photographic exhibition on Northern Ireland from 14 April for one month. There will also be weekly events on topics based around it.

Gay Art

An exhibition of the work of local gay artists is to be held in a local venue during East London Gay Pride Week (June 20-June 29).

The exhibits need not be specifically on a gay theme, although it is to be hoped that a significant percentage of the work will have some bearing upon gay life in the locality.

Anyone who wishes to submit work to be considered for the exhibition should

contact the East London Gay Pride Week Committee at 98 Balfron Tower, St Leonards Rd., London E14.

The event will be part of the East London Gay Pride Week celebrations whose aims are to increase the understanding between the homosexual and heterosexual communities and to encourage isolated gay men and women to make contact with the gay community at large.

Events such as plays and discos as well as a variety of other exhibitions are also being planned.

CRASS



021984

"Stations of the Cross" is the new double album by Crass for three pounds. One side is live, that is the other three are studio recorded. You get in all 36 tracks plus 15 recorded twice which is 46. But you get 40 in all. By the way there are two things worth saying about this album - it says a lot for itself. Crass are one band who Haven't sold out for money like some bands. No names but there are some bands who have. It's good that a band like Crass are doing something for the kids who like them a lot. The live side is great. Buy this if you like Crass, if not don't then. Steve King

Thanks to Cling and London PX.

Memories

The Hackney People's Autobiography Group is now planning two further publications. One will be mainly about Hackney between the wars and will be heavily illustrated with contemporary photographs. Anyone with memories of Hackney during that time is welcome to contribute.

The second publication will be about the rag trade - "the seamy side of the garment industry". The group is particularly interested in talking to people who have old memories of working in the trade, about their conditions, the kind of work they did, the employers they worked for, the unions they were involved in.

For both these projects, please contact Betsy Brewer, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8, 254 9632).

KID'S PAGE

IS TAKING A SHORT BREAK - WE HOPE TO BE BACK SOON. IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE WRITE TO CENTERPRISE, 136 KINGSLAND HIGH ST, E.8. (254 9632)

ADVERTISEMENT



The Rio Centre, 107 Kingsland High St., E8. 254 6677

MARCH PROGRAMME

Sat 8	THIS STRUGGLE CALLED LIFE	7.30
	THE DEVIL'S RAIN plus DEATH LINE	11.15
Sun 9	Bloomers in THE 1980 SPIT AND POLISH GIRLIE SHOW	2.30
	GREEK LANGUAGE FILMS	7.00
Mon 10	JARBERWOCKY plus	
For 3 days	MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL	7.00
Thurs 13	UNEMPLOYED CINEMA	2.00
	DILLINGER plus	8.45
	INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN	7.05
Fri 14	Schools programme: TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD	2.00
	DILLINGER plus	8.45
	INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN	
	KUNG FU FILMS	11.15
Sat 15	DILLINGER plus	5.05, 8.45
	INCREDIBLE MELTING MAN	3.30, 7.05
	THE SENTINEL plus	
	LET'S SCARE JESSICA TO DEATH	11.15
Sun 16	THE JAZZ SINGER plus	
	42ND STREET	2.30

The Rio will be closed for conversion work and decoration from Monday 17 March to Friday 28 March

COMING SOON...

The main cinematic event of the month is the arrival of "Apocalypse Now" in Hackney, four years and 30 million dollars after its inception. Francis Ford Coppola's stunning evocation of the Vietnam War, shot on location in the jungles of the Philippines, offers no direct judgements. Instead it recreates the intoxicating spectacle of America's high technology pitted, in all its futility, against the Vietnamese capacity for suffering.

Based on a Conrad novel (Heart Of Darkness), the film follows the progress of a war-addicted Martin Sheen upriver to assassinate his fellow-American Colonel Kurtz, played by Marlon Brando, who is fighting a savage private war from his tribal kingdom. By the time Brando appears in the last reel he has assumed an almost mythological status which his mutterings and bizarre gesticulations with his shaven head do nothing to dispel. "Apocalypse Now" will be showing at the Mayfair at the end of this month.

Anyone passing along Kingsland High Street later this month can expect to see big changes at the Rio, which will be undergoing a major face-

lift. No doubt the new red and yellow colour scheme will prove the most eye-catching alteration, but other equally important improvements are being made inside. A rolling screen has been purchased, the stage area is being extended, as is wing-space, and dressing rooms are to be provided, so live shows should prove more practicable in future. The basement area is also being rebuilt to accommodate a social area and facilities for a 16mm projector. The improvements are being funded by "Operation Clean-up" and the Inner City Partnership.

The cinema will be closed for 10 days, from the 17 to the 28 March, for the work to be done, but the rest of the month's programme is sufficiently packed to compensate. The main programme includes the excellent "Dillinger", an unusually angled study of the growth of a legend and a gangster's attempts to live up to it; always worth seeing again, "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" is double-billed with the Python spin-off, "Jabberwocky".

Among the Saturday lates is the terrifying "Death Line", based on the collapse

of the projected Museum underground station during construction - enough to make you glad of Hackney's lack of Tube stations. In addition, Women's Cinema, the Turkish Workers' Association, Hackney Black Women's Group and the Schools Programme all find slots in a crowded fortnight.

Early this month, the Mayfair has "The Rose", introducing the ebullient Bette Midler to the screen; always a potential star since the release of her first, highly theatrical album, The Divine Miss M, her eventual screen debut is a triumph of marketing. She plays a dissipated rock star, at the peak of her career in a stale and bloated industry. The character is very obviously based on the late Janis Joplin, even reproducing her inane asides to the audience between numbers. Alan Bates is oddly cast as her English manager, struggling desperately to keep the show on the road and the money rolling in while his star disintegrates melodramatically in public.

The Mayfair also has "Life Of Brian", previewed last month, as does the Konak. The Astra serves its ritual diet of Kung Fu.

information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.

The information on this page has been revised and up-dated, but we would welcome any further corrections or additions. For the April issue please send them to us by Friday 21 March. Our address is HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Community, Tenants Political and Pensioners Groups Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973 (office hours)
986 9146

FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS
Represents Borough, GLC, housing assocn and private tenants.
Contact Terry Robinson, 380 Old St, EC1. 739 3631.

HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP
contact Terry Robinson. 739 3631

ACORN TENANTS ASSOCIATION
Represents New Islington & Hackney Housing Assocn tenants.
Contact Terry Robinson. 739 3631

Ecology

HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
Active group, campaigning on safe energy, bikes, wildlife, recycling etc. Contact Jim Read, 67 Fairholt Road, N16. 802 0122.

HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP
Open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power.
Meets every other Thursday in Centerprise. Contact 226 1799

SUN POWER ECOLOGY CENTRE
83, Blackstock Road, N.4.
Bookshop specialises in the environment, cooking, health, education, childrens' books; also crafts and some wholefoods.
01 226 1799

HACKNEY SOCIETY

An amenity group, affiliated to the Civic Trust, concerned with Hackney's environment and architecture. Meets on the third Monday of each month.
Details from Chairman, David Batchelor, Tel. 985 7937 or Secretary, Robert Hill, 75 Glyn Road E5 Tel. 986 8761.

Women

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 6208.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY WOMEN'S GROUP

Meets monthly - talks, films, activities. For information phone Nathalie 254 9508.

OFF CENTRE

Drop-in centre for Young Unemployed.

Free snacks, use of telephones and newspapers. A meeting place for the young unemployed.

Off Centre Basement.
25 Hackney Grove, E8.
986 4016.

Community Centres

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
Bookshop and office hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.
FACILITIES:
Coffee bar, bookshop, advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.
ADVICE CENTRE:
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm.
READING CENTRE:
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnell or ring 254 9635.
PUBLISHING PROJECT:
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney.

WALLY FOSTER CENTRE
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972
Community Centre with many activities:
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:
Every Monday at 7pm.
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.
See also ADVICE and NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES listings.

THE FACTORY
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.
Contact them for further details.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities.
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome).
"Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating.
Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
Contact them for further information.
Also see ADVICE and Neighbourhood English Classes and Gingerbread under COMMUNITY GROUPS listings on this page.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.
Many events take place in the theatre each month—see the EVENTS AND MEETINGS section. Also see ADVICE listing.

CHATS PALACE
42-44 Brooksby's Walk, E9.
986 6714. Meeting space, bar for club members, duplicating, workshop, clubs, classes, jazz, music hall, supplementary school, youth activities, hall for hire.

Education

ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES

For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.
Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.
Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.
June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pittfield Street, N1. 739 5153.
Sue Shrapnell, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.
Cal Weatherald, Highbury Manor AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME
Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N.16 on Thursday mornings.

Meditation

TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
Partnership for Progress in Hackney: regular introductory talks. Ring 254 6280 for details.

ANANDA MARGA
1 Cazenove Road, N.16.

For spiritual progress and social change.
Meditation classes for men Wednesday 8.00pm
Meditation classes for women Tuesday 8.00pm and Wednesday 2.00pm.
Sewing class Tuesday 7.00pm.

Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.
STOKE NEWINGTON ADVICE GROUP SERVICE.
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 37/0.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY. 245 Mare St, E8.
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE
5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS.** See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY** under **POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? **EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE**
Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

Workshops

THE WORKSHOP
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.
Print your own posters and T-shirts. Cost of materials only. Open by arrangement.

COMET WORKSHOP
Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork.
Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee.
Open every weekday.

WORKSHOP
77a, Lauriston Road, E.9.
01 986 9585 Open 10.00 - 6.00 Mon. - Sat.
Pottery workshop and shop selling ceramics and pottery handmade in the workshop. Also Macrame plant hangers, jewellery, cards and other crafts.

Gays

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

GEMMA
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

Transport

HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP
Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559



Health

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes **HEALTH IN HACKNEY**: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Pordon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

Volunteers needed at: Huddleston Centre, St James the Great Church, Lower Clapton Rd. E.5. 01 985 8869.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL CAMPAIGN

Hackney & District branch.
Meets at John Scott Health Centre, Green Lanes, N4.
Contact Rose McNulty 800 3108 (evenings) or Hilda Burd 800 2124 (anytime).

Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Information and support for parents with children under school age. Stores open on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Open monthly meetings on 3rd Tuesday of each month. Tel 254 9145.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Lillian McFetridge

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE
112b Forest Road E8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

Food

TOWARDS JUPITER
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.
FOOD FOR ALL
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts.

SHANTI VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT
1 Cazenove Road, N.16

Vegetarian meals.
Wed, Thurs and Fri 7.00-9.00pm.
Sat 12.00-2.00pm.
Full vegetarian meal 65p.

Vegetarian cookery classes:
Wed 5.30pm and Sat 10.30am.

Music

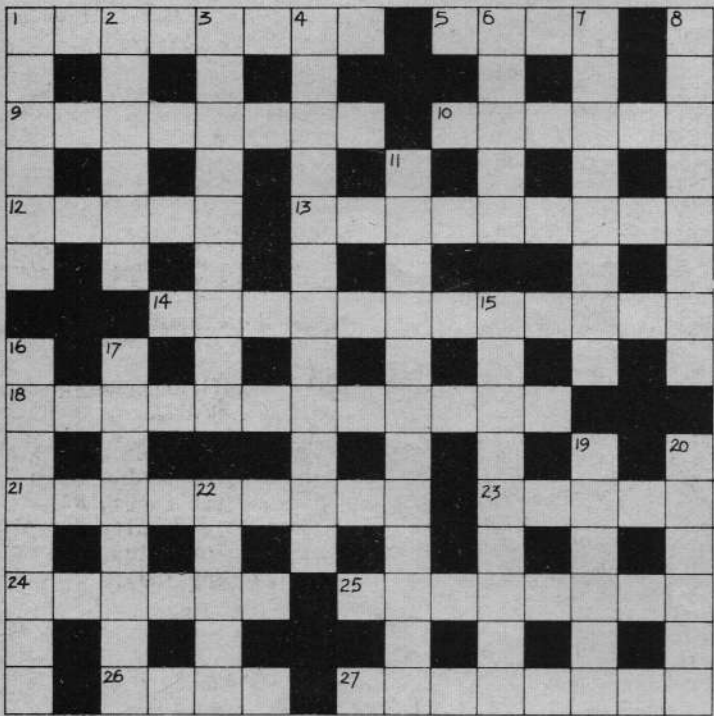
POETRY AND MUSIC CLUB
The Chatterbox, 1a, Chatterton Rd, (off Blackstock Rd.) Finsbury Park, N.4.
Weds. 8.00 - 11.00 p.m.
All welcome. 20p admission. Performers free.

ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free.
Ring Dave 249 0025.

HOME GROWN MUSIC
Chats Palace every Thursday at 8.00pm. 50p admission. Floor singers should contact John Lockhart on 986 6714.

HACKNEY CHESS CLUB
Weds. 7.30pm - 10.30pm
Fri. 7.30pm - 10.00pm
Centerprise Daily
Tues. - Sat.
For any information contact T. Wilson, 135, Manor Road, N.16 5PB.

H.P.P. Crossword No. 8



by PANJANDRUM

THIS MONTH the Hackney People's Press crossword has two sets of clues - cryptic clues for the experts and easy clues for the casual solver. Both sets of clues lead to the same answers so you can use either as you please. With luck there won't be any of the usual mistakes! Good luck!

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1. Do people in glass houses have such babies? (4-4)
- 5. Find fault with fish (4)
- 9. Old rag I'm converting into a flower (8)
- 10. Nothing left, love, in Iberian town (6)
- 12. Boat propellor? (5)
- 13. Manoeuvres for regiment (9)
- 14. He's not often seen on the freeway (6,6)
- 18. Fizzle out, like rocket launch countdown (4,2,6)
- 21. BR has such a way! (9)
- 23. Specimen has a bit missing but it's large enough (5)
- 24. HPP reports on all the latest ones in each of theirs (6)
- 25. (8)
- 26. A, B, C, D, F or G? (4)
- 27. 'Ugo returns in quiet part at beginning of play (8)

DOWN

- 1. French stamp of quality (6)
- 2. Back-breaking burden of some camels (6)
- 3. Search for something to put in your tank? (5,4)
- 4. Nijinsky, perhaps, cantered oddly after delivery (6,6)
- 6. Some grasp end of tree (5)
- 7. See sense - understand? (8)
- 8. They're worn by the wife who gets her way (8)
- 11. Thug presents a challenge to beauty parlour (4,8)
- 15. Listens again to a learner in practice (9)
- 16. It's doubtful whether they are all called Thomas (8)
- 17. Little devil! No, Sir! Back to jail! (8)
- 19. Do you need a little eye to indulge in such activity? (6)
- 20. The medium HAS the message here (6)
- 22. 007's a secret one (5)

EASY CLUES

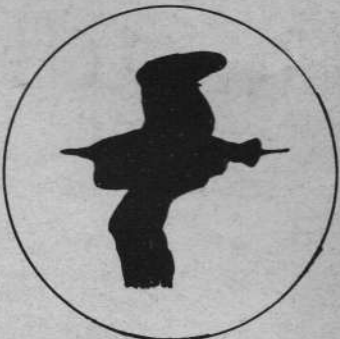
ACROSS

- 1. Piece of laboratory equipment (4-4)
- 5. Cavil (4)
- 9. Flower (8)
- 10. Town in Portugal (6)
- 12. Oarsman (5)
- 13. Sappers (9)
- 14. Inexperienced motorist (6,6)
- 18. Fade (4,2,6)
- 21. Lasting indefinitely (9)
- 23. Sufficient (5)
- 24. Publishes (6)
- 25. Something left out (8)
- 26. Memo (4)
- 27. Introduction (8)

DOWN

- 1. Character of sound (6)
- 2. Grain stalks (6)
- 3. Indian safari (5,4)
- 4. Rudolph Nureyev, for example (6,6)
- 6. Trembling poplar (5)
- 7. Become aware of (8)
- 8. Item of clothing (8)
- 11. Threatening character (4,8)
- 15. Preparatory performance (9)
- 16. They question common beliefs (8)
- 17. Shut up (8)
- 19. Espionage (6)
- 20. Spiritualist meeting (6)
- 22. One who acts for another (5)

Marshes campaign celebrates!



The Save The Marshes Campaign has been fighting since last summer to prevent gravel extraction from Walthamstow Marshes and finally won at GLC level on 4 February. There is still the possibility of an appeal.

remarkable

It has been a remarkably successful campaign, attracting support from many different quarters, including all shades of political opinion. Hackney Council supported the campaign unanimously and Waltham Forest with a lot of persuasion.

There were two rather unusual features about the Save The Marshes Committee: it brought together people who had not previously been involved in politics or other local issues. Botanists do not intend to be militant or to join committees! It contained a lot of talented and very hard working people, including people who were very good at graphics and a press

officer who might have been born to the job.

The campaign started off on a local basis, gaining the support of the press on both sides of the Lee, holding public meetings, collecting signatures, getting people to write to the GLC. Support was gained from natural history societies, schools and university departments from all over the country, and a book about the Marshes was produced, which describes plant, bird and insect life on the Marshes and includes species lists.

questions

The campaign has raised many questions about the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the owners of the land, set up in 1966 to transform derelict areas of the Lee Valley into a "green lung".

The battle of the last nine months may turn out to have

been only an initial skirmish, as the Park Authority's plans for the place are very different from those of most local people. They have the legal powers to fence off any public open space they own, and then charge admission!

plans

Campaign members have many constructive and practical plans of their own for the area, including a new book, educational walks, and some tidying up projects. None of this can be done unless the LVRPA agrees with what we are trying to do.

Anyone who supports the campaign is welcome at a celebration party on Saturday 8 March at Chats Palace from 6.30pm onwards, featuring a live band.

Anyone who wants to see the real celebration can just go out on the Marshes on any warm spring day and remember that they are standing on what was nearly a gravel pit.



Fun and games on the marshes last year

AND NOW THE GOOD NEWS...

The price of Hackney People's Press is not to go up from 10p in the foreseeable future. While all around us costs rise, inflation soars, buses don't run, rents escalate etc etc, HPP has made a principled stand against....

What this means, though, is that you now have to attend our jumble sales and benefits, and you are strongly requested to use our new 3p a word classified section. This means that your messages will reach our countless thousands of readers.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. All decisions are made collectively.

We hold meetings every Monday (except the last one in each month) at 8pm in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. You can come along to one of these meetings and volunteer to help us write, produce or sell the next issue - or simply tell us what you think of the paper.

If you can't come one Monday then write to us c/o Centerprise or ring 249 0311 any evening or weekend.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please

contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading HPP and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

Subscribe!

Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £2.20 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

NAME

ADDRESS